

APPENDIX 12

ROCKPILE CREEK ASSESSMENT FINDINGS AND DETAILS

Central Rockpile Ck.

- By the early 1960s, the main haul road followed directly along the central reaches of Rockpile Ck. Remnants of road and landings in Rockpile Ck. continue to contribute sediment during peak flows. Shade limited along Rockpile Ck due to large amounts of road segments and landings directly in or adjacent to upper reaches of Rockpile Ck (THP 97-510 CFL) from 30 yrs ago.
- Skidding and hauling in watercourses during 1950s, 60s, were noted in central and upper reaches of Rockpile watershed. High sedimentation and accumulation of debris found in channel. Downcutting and subsequent downstream aggregations noted. Conditions described in a stage of recovery as stream flow continues to flush sediment and organic material downstream (CFL 97-341, 97-345). In very steep areas, Class II and III watercourses were not used as skid trails.
- In the 1974 fisheries survey, downstream migrant traps showed that wild steelhead were the most numerous species captured.. By 2001, there was a decrease in steelhead counts from 153 to 48 between 1998 to 2001 at a lower monitoring station (GRI, 2001).

Mid summer CFL Stream Ts have been monitored daily since 1997 throughout middle and upper reaches of Rockpile Ck. (1) one mile downstream of Horsethief Ck. confluence, (2) upstream of Horsethief Ck. confluence, and (3) Upper Rockpile Ck, Upper South Fork. Stream temperatures exceed 20C for intermittent periods, and occasionally in excess of 20C everyday for more than two weeks. A Reeves criterion attributes water temperature impairment for Coho if stream temperatures exceed 68F for more than two weeks. CFL finds the Reeves criterion to be exceeded along the mainstem of Rockpile Ck “for brief intervals, throughout the sampling period”. Temperatures are higher in downstream reaches, compared to upstream reaches in the CFL ownership of Rockpile Ck. watershed.

CFL no harvest WLPZs are routinely stipulated for all THPs along Rockpile Ck. and Class II tributaries to mitigate temperature impairment throughout the watershed. Canopy cover is “lacking in most areas along Rockpile Ck”, mid to higher reaches (CFL 97-475).

Red Rock Ck.

Logged in 1959-1960. The main haul road was built along Red Rock Ck. for nearly the entire length of the Class I watercourse. Numerous in stream landings lined Red Rock Creek (CDF NCWAP).

In the mid 1990s, extensive streambank rehabilitation work was carried out by J. Monchke.

Upper Rockpile Ck.

- Seven seed tree overstory removal/ dispersed harvest THPs dated 1997-98 exceeded 60% of the 2700 acre Brandt tract within the Upper Rockpile Ck. WAA. These plans directed road repair work throughout the road network area wide. This included (1) repair of two watercourse diversions (CFL 97-371), (2) removal of a long section of seasonal road across Rockpile Ck. (legacy road), and (3) repair of two other watercourse diversions, (CFL 98-091). These THPs stipulated temporary watercourse road crossing specifications as the dominant use among seasonal road laterals. This requires abandonment of road crossing structures with road approaches bladed back to reestablish original streambank configuration and exposed soils treated with grass seed and mulch.